AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

The following claim listing replaces all prior listings and versions of the claims:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A traffic control apparatus for controlling traffic between a plurality of client apparatuses and a server apparatus in a service system including the plurality of client apparatuses for issuing service requests to the server apparatus and the server apparatus for receiving the service requests from the client apparatuses to provide a service, comprising:

a unit for relaying a service request from a client apparatus to the server apparatus;

a unit for relaying a reply sent from the server apparatus to the client apparatus, the reply being a response to the relayed service request;

a unit for measuring reception performance of each of the client apparatuses including a network performance between each of the client apparatuses and the traffic control apparatus; [[and]]

a unit for managing a total measured reception performance of the plurality of client apparatuses coupled to the server apparatus, the total measured reception performance including a sum of measured reception performance of each of the plurality of client apparatuses coupled to the server apparatus; and

a unit for controlling whether to [[a]] relay of a newly received service request to the server apparatus, based on transmission performance of the server apparatus and the total measured reception performance of the plurality of client apparatuses ~~a total of the reception performance of the client apparatuses, that are being coupled to the server apparatus~~.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously presented) The traffic control apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a unit for estimating a waiting time of the reply supplied by the server apparatus; and

a unit for sending an access restriction message for rejecting the request when the waiting time is longer than a fixed time.

4. (Previously presented) The traffic control apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a unit for changing priority used to relay the requests to the server apparatus in accordance with the reception performance of the client apparatus.

5. (Previously presented) The traffic control apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the unit for measuring reception performance comprises:

a client performance measurement unit for observing time that the client apparatus receives the service reply to calculate the reception performance of the client apparatus.

6. (Previously presented) The traffic control apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the unit for measuring reception performance comprises:

a client performance measurement unit for observing time that the server apparatus sends the service reply to calculate the reception performance of the client apparatus.

7. (Previously presented) The traffic control apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising:

a unit for making access restriction on a request already received from the client apparatus when priority of a request received later is higher than that of the already received request.

8. (Previously presented) The traffic control apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a unit for changing priority of the requests relayed to the server apparatus in accordance with the reception performance of the client apparatus.

9. (Previously presented) The traffic control apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising:

a unit for controlling an average response time to the client apparatus within a fixed time.

10. (Previously presented) The traffic control apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a unit for providing a maximum processing time of the requests to the client apparatus before the requests are transferred to the server apparatus.

11. (Currently amended) A service system including a server apparatus for receiving service requests from client apparatuses and a traffic control apparatus for controlling traffic between the client apparatuses and the server apparatus, wherein:

the traffic control apparatus comprises:

a unit for relaying a service request from a client apparatus to the server apparatus;

a unit for relaying a reply sent from the server apparatus to the client apparatus, the reply being a response to the relayed service request;

a unit for measuring reception performance of each of the client apparatuses including a network performance between each of the client apparatuses and the traffic control apparatus; [[and;]]

a unit for managing a total measured reception performance of the client apparatuses coupled to the server apparatus, the total measured reception performance including a sum of measured reception performance of each of the client apparatuses coupled to the server apparatus; and

a unit for controlling whether to [[a]] relay of a newly received service request to the server apparatus, based on transmission performance of the server apparatus and the total measured reception performance of the client apparatuses ~~a total of the reception performance of the client apparatuses that are being coupled to the server apparatus;~~ and

the server apparatus comprises [[:]] a unit for sending the reply to the service request to the traffic control apparatus, wherein:

the unit for measuring reception performance measures the reception performance of the client apparatus at intervals of time, and

~~wherein~~ the unit for controlling ~~the changes~~ is configured to dynamically change the number of client apparatuses simultaneously connected to the server apparatus~~, dynamically~~.

12. (Previously presented) The service system according to claim 11, wherein the traffic control apparatus further includes:

a unit for changing priority of the service request relayed to the server apparatus in accordance with the reception performance of the client apparatus.

13. (Previously presented) The service system according to claim 11, wherein the traffic control apparatus further comprises:

a unit for controlling an average response time to the client apparatus within a fixed time.

14. (Previously presented) The service system according to claim 11, wherein the traffic control apparatus further comprises:

a unit for providing a maximum processing time of the service request to the client apparatus before the service request is transferred to the server apparatus.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently amended) The traffic control apparatus according to claim 1, wherein controlling of the relay of the newly received service request to the server apparatus is further based on maximum allowable connections to the server apparatus and a sum of current connections to the server apparatus.

17. (Currently amended) The service system according to claim 11, wherein controlling of the relay of the newly received service request to the server apparatus is further

based on maximum allowable connections to the server apparatus and a sum of current connections to the server apparatus.